

Statement

Deborah Zlotsky

“In my paintings, accidents shift relationships and produce unexpected proximities and disruptions. The act of painting and repainting requires a period of non-linear, improvisational, and generative adjustments, mirroring the way history evolves through the accidents of actions and reactions. Fundamental to my process is a desire to create unexpected coherence in irregular and uncertain systems and to reveal the ways the past infiltrates the present.

Over the last few years I’ve worked with reclaimed vintage textiles, like scarves, doilies, and handknit blankets. The palette, patterns, and textures of these textiles embody the time period of our mothers, grandmothers, and great-grandmothers. As part of a larger practice to accumulate and connect visual fragments, I layer and shift patterns by spray painting directly onto the surface in these paintings, using antique doilies as stencils. Each doily contains historical residue, as well as an individualized history of use to beautify and feminize a home environment. I am interested in the way activating the textiles onto the canvas weaves together imperfections, the passage of time, and beauty.”

- Deborah Zlotsky